

APPROVAL REPORT

The Cemeteries Bylaw, 2023

ISSUE

This report submits Bylaw No. 9950, *The Cemeteries Bylaw, 2023* (“Bylaw”) for City Council’s consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council:

1. Consider Bylaw No. 9950, *The Cemeteries Bylaw, 2023*; and
2. Instruct the City Clerk to repeal the Cemetery Regulations effective January 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

At its [June 28, 2023 Regular Business Meeting](#), City Council considered a report of the General Manager, Community Services dated June 7, 2023 and resolved:

1. That the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 6453, *The Cemetery Bylaw, 1984* and any necessary consequential amendments to other bylaws be approved;
2. That City Council instruct the City Solicitor to repeal and replace Bylaw No. 6453, *The Cemetery Bylaw, 1984* with a new cemeteries bylaw;
3. That City Council instruct the City Solicitor to prepare any necessary consequential amendments to any other City bylaw;
4. That City Council instruct the City Clerk to make any necessary consequential amendments to City Council policies; and
5. That City Council instruct the City Clerk to repeal *The Cemetery Bylaw Regulations* once Bylaw No. 6453, *The Cemetery Bylaw, 1984* has been repealed and replaced.

At its [September 27, 2023 Regular Business Meeting](#), City Council considered a report of the General Manager, Community Services dated September 6, 2023 and resolved in part:

That City Council delegate its power to approve the alteration, disturbance, restoration or repair of Nutana Pioneer Cemetery for research purposes to the General Manager, Community Services or their designate; and

That the City Solicitor be instructed to draft the required bylaw.

At the [2024/25 Preliminary Corporate Business Plan and Budget meetings](#) held on November 28, 29, 30 and December 1, 2023, City Council received reports of the Chief Financial Officer requesting approval to establish rates and fees and resolved in part:

That the proposed Woodlawn Cemetery fee increase for services provided for 2024-2025, as outlined in Appendix 3 and included in the 2024-2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In accordance with City Council's instructions, we are pleased to submit Bylaw No. 9950, *The Cemeteries Bylaw, 2023*, for City Council's consideration.

No required amendments to other bylaws or policies were identified.

In regard to City Council's resolution respecting the delegation of the power to approve certain alterations to Nutana Cemetery, the statement in the current bylaw that "no change shall be made to the Nutana (Pioneer) Cemetery without the written approval of City Council" has been omitted from the Bylaw. Going forward, the process set out in *The Heritage Property (Approval of Alterations) Bylaw, 2004* will, consistent with other heritage properties, apply to changes to Nutana Cemetery.

The Bylaw additionally increases the maximum number of interments permitted in a grave from 4 to 6. While this change was not specifically mentioned in the 2022 City of Saskatoon Cemetery Master Plan, this change is consistent with the spirit of the plan in that it would allow for more effective use of the cemetery's lands, extend the life of the cemetery and provide families with another more affordable interment option.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to City Council's approval of the Bylaw, *The Cemetery Bylaw Regulations* will be repealed by the City Clerk effective January 1, 2024.

Regulations respecting green burials have been included in the Bylaw. Cemetery employees will continue working toward being able to provide this service to members of the public in the future. Once the cemetery is positioned to begin offering green burials and has determined appropriate fees for this new service, a subsequent report will be presented to City Council requesting that fees for green burials be added to the Bylaw.

APPENDIX

1. Proposed Bylaw No. 9950, *The Cemeteries Bylaw, 2023*.

Report Approval

Written by: Laura Thomson, Solicitor
Approved by: Cindy Yelland, City Solicitor